

VIII. Reserves and Resource Estimates of Offshore Oil and Natural Gas

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) announced in June of 1996 the availability of *An Assessment of the Undiscovered Hydrocarbon Potential of the Nation's Outer Continental Shelf*, which presents the results of a multiyear study by MMS to estimate the amounts of undiscovered natural gas and crude oil resources that may exist on the OCS. The MMS conducted the study concurrently with a similar study by the U.S. Geological Survey that estimates the amounts of undiscovered natural gas and crude oil onshore and within the boundaries of coastal States.

MMS estimates are presented in two categories: (1) Undiscovered Conventionally Recoverable Resources (UCRR) and (2) Undiscovered Economically Recoverable Resources (UERR). According to the MMS report, UCRR are 37.1 to 55.3 billion barrels of oil (Bbbl) and 186.3 to 369.2 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas. The UERR estimates are represented as "price-supply" curves. The report includes additional statistics on OCS proved reserves, unproved reserves, and reserves appreciation. The MMS report presents the information for the total OCS as well as separately for the Alaska, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Atlantic portions of the OCS.

Copies of this MMS report, designated MMS 96-0034, are available at no charge from the MMS Document Distribution Center, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817, phone (703) 787-1080. This report and others are available through the World Wide Web at <http://www.mms.gov>. For detailed information on reserve estimates and methodology, refer to the following reports:

- *Estimated Proved and Unproved Oil and Gas Reserves, Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf, December 31, 1995* (MMS 96-0061)
- *Estimated Oil and Gas Reserves, Pacific Outer Continental Shelf, as of December 31, 1995* (MMS 96-0060)